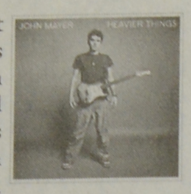
CD Reviews

John Mayer
(Columbia) *Heavier Things*



Mayer's latest release is as flawless and clean as a water-washed stone. But there's one tiny error in this comparison, this being that Mayer has reached his current state while still in his early 20s, and well, stones likely need a little more time than that to develop such a smooth texture.

Trying not to sound too damn trite here – each track on the new disc has its own way of adapting itself to your mood, whether through Mayer's semi-insightful lyrics, or his captivatingly subtle guitar and vocal hooks. I guess it's everything that a John Mayer album should be, eh? Mayer spends a good sum of the album boasting his charms and talking all lovey dovey for the ladies, making it quite clear that guitar strings are not the only type that he knows how to pluck on and manipulate.

This album has left me with the opinion that John Mayer is a crafty and clever singer/songwriter, quite worthy of praise in all areas of musicianship. Tracks such as 'Clarity' 'Something's Missing' and 'Daughters' are primary examples of this. If spongy-soft rock really isn't your thing then maybe you should skip this and move on to truly heavier things but this take on *Heavier Things* is still definitely worth a listen.

**** • Gavin Simms

Zyklon
(Candlelight) *Aeon*

While I was not initially very impressed by Aeon, it has been growing on me more and more with every listen. The music has more depth and thought involved than I had originally realized. *Aeon* crushes – it's as simple as that.

The overall brutality and misanthropic vibes I get from Zyklon make me want to go against my morals and pigeonhole their music as a metal subgenre all their own, something to the effect of "apocalyptic misanthropy death/black." As we all know, though, that is not right and is way to long to say every time someone asks, "What kind of metal do Zyklon play?"

There are several tracks on this kill-frenzy that slay. Take 'Psyklon Aeon' for example. Squeeling guitars, glaringly destructive solos and Trym's brutal off the wall drumming patterns all make this song a Zyklon staple – with a little devolution brought in to lead off where Worl ov Worms left off. Bard Eithun's lyrics and commentary are thought provoking – not for the weak, but fully aware of reality.

Alas, Norway pushes out another well delivered piece of art. Not a completely mind blowing affair, but one that manages to rock and totally destroy in the brutality department.

**** • Metal Matt

Brave Saint Saturn
(Tooth & Nail) *The Light of all Things Hoped For*



Brave Saint Saturn have taken an interesting approach on their latest 15 song release, *The Light of all Things Hoped For*. The Denver, Co., quartet modeled their album, compiled of an abundance of uplifting and thought provoking songs, as a journey to the moon.

The songs are very diverse in sound, ranging everywhere from Matthew Sweet-esque pop ('Binary Star'), all the way to heavy metal ('Titan'). Usually this would take away from the credibility of the band, to conquer so many diverse fronts, but the guys of Brave Saint Saturn pull it off very well. The song writing speaks to the listener on many levels, proving that this group gives their fans their money's worth.

The CD starts off on an energetic upbeat front with one of my favourites on the album, 'The Sun Also Rises.' The song basically details an optimistic attitude about life. Another song that stood out to me is the witty 'Enamel.' It's the story of a fed-up man's feelings towards an ex-girlfriend and her shallowness: "Enamel is stretched too thin. You're beautiful, but not beneath your skin."

All in all, this CD is definitely worth a listen. They are tight as a band and play a lot of straight up, insightful rock which is nice to hear in the music market today.

**** • Mike Coughlan

Monday Night Films Series presents: *Owning Mahowny*

Philip Seymour Hoffman takes on role of gambling addict

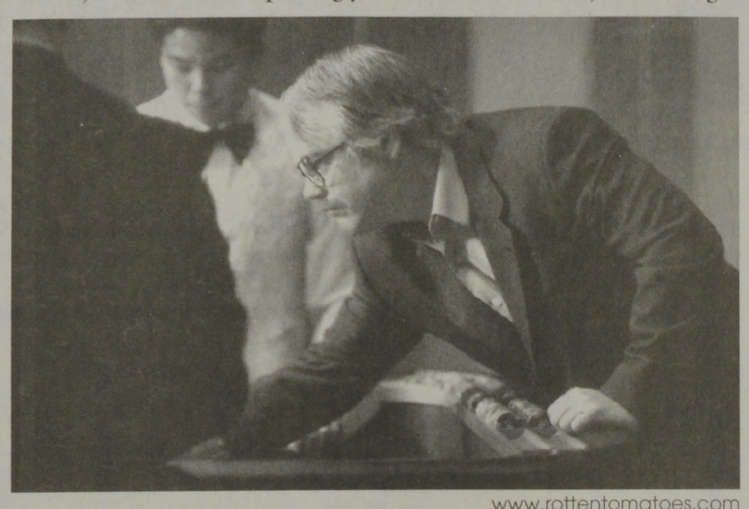
by Jeremy Elder

In *Owning Mahowny* a bank manager siphons millions into his pockets, and from there it flows straight into the casinos; and it's a crime he might have gotten away with.

In this age of bank heist movies and people on the run, one almost expects him to be glamorous and suave; Dan Mahowny, however, is not. He's normal, in fact almost depressingly so. Hell, he doesn't even play to win.

Director Richard Kwietniowski takes us into the mind of Dan Mahowny (Philip Seymour Hoffman), who understands numbers and craves the rush of gambling. When he steals the money to play games, it has nothing to do with amassing wealth – with $10.2 million, who would really need to risk it for more?

Simply put, Mahowny is an addict: it's all about the betting, playing the odds, understanding the numbers. This addiction is mirrored in two worlds: the world of banks and financial institutions, and the high-rolling world of casinos, both set during the stampeding market of the 1980s that allows him to get away with so much, for a while.



www.rottentomatoes.com

Owning Mahowny shows Monday, Oct. 20th in Tilley 102 at 8pm.

This film also stars Minnie Driver as Mahowny's fiancee Belinda, and all the leads do a tremendous job in maintaining the tension between the comedic and the tragic.

We get to follow Mahowny through his life and his mind of gambling, and see how oblivious he is to those around him, locked away in his own little world. In the end, though, everything Mahowny counts on crumbles away – after all, the house *always* wins.

Owning Mahowny screens Monday, October 20th in Tilley 102 as part of the Monday Night Film Series. Showtime is 8:00 pm, and ticket prices remain the same as always.

Top 28 : Charts for October 6, 2003



1. The New Pornographers
   Electric Version (Mint)
2. Various Artists
   Saddle Creek 50 (Saddle Creek)
3. Rotator
   Twelve-Move Mate (Swordfight)
4. The Super Friendz
   Love Energy (Outside)
5. Lou Reed
   NYC Man: The Collection (RCA)
6. Front 242
   Pulse (Metropolis)
7. NOFX
   The War on Errorism (Fat)
8. The Faint
   Danse Macabre Remixes (Saddle Creek)
9. Moneen
   Are We Really Happy With Who We Are Right Now? (Smallman)
10. Various Artists
    Hookah Cafe (Triloka)
11. Peter Tosh
    The Best Of: 1978 - 1987 (EMI)
12. Buscemi
    Camino Real (Bem Biem)
13. Mogwai
    Happy Songs For Happy People (Matador)
14. Faith and the Muse
    The Burning Season (Metropolis)
15. Jon Epworth
    Mm/Yy/Dd (Anti Antenna)
16. Rancid
    Indestructible (Hellcat)
17. Rock Ranger
    Sing Along (No)
18. Natacha Atlas
    Something Dangerous (Mantra)
19. Collide
    Some Kind Of Strange (Noiseplus)
20. Akrobatic
    Balance (Coup D'Etat)
21. Sepultura
    Roorback (SPV)
22. Professor Undressor
    The Sumi-e Experiment (Kelp)
23. Carlos Del Junco
    Up And At 'Em (Big Reed)
24. Constantines
    Shine A Light (Three Gut)
25. Guided By Voices
    Earthquake Glue (Matador)
26. The Dandy Warhols
    Welcome to the College EP (EMI)
27. Buddy Guy
    Blues Singer (Silvertone)
28. Client
    Price Of Love EP (Toast Hawaii)

TNB's The Hobbit

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unknown adventure to the homebody of a hobbit. Rejean Cournoyer, a 2003 Actra award winner for his role as drag queen Rory in *The Event*, is stellar as Gandalf, and later supplies the dragon's booming voice as well.

The dwarves then arrive to convince Bilbo – who draws rave reviews from Gandalf despite having little confidence in himself – to come along as burglar (or "expert treasure-hunter") with some of their trademark singing.

Gandalf says there's magic in their song, and it actually did feel like at least a little dwarfish magic must have slipped in the door somewhere because Bilbo and the dwarves are soon off, and the hobbit-hole soon becomes wilderness, dungeons, mountains, and a battlefield.

The cast members do a tremendous job with their interchanging roles, the most notable being Henderson's transformation from tiny dwarf to terrible goblin lord to towering king of the wood-elves, the latter of which requires some slick stilt work on his part.

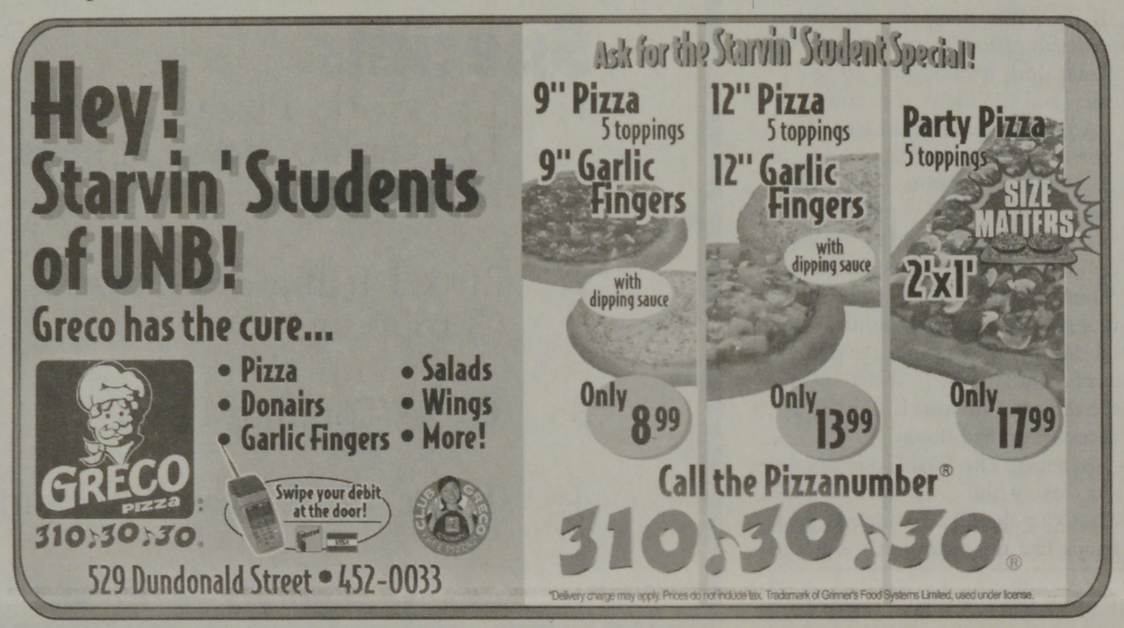
Hunter adds a nice surprise with a spine-tingling appearance as the lowly Gollum, and director Scott Burke and composer/sound designer Michael Doherty pay full homage to the dwarves singing spirit, from the opening scenes to the barrel-riding escape song.

The costumes, designed by Robert Doyle, who also designed the set, are subtle but fantastic, with dragons, giant spiders, elves, goblins, and furry-footed hobbits all being represented very nicely.

Hunter's presence makes the story easy to follow, and the play doesn't give in to the temptation to borrow directly from the *Lord of the Rings* movies, taking its own distinct direction with the material. Some quotes are left true to the book, while the parts of the story that are changed are very understandable adaptations for the stage.

Percy's performance is perfectly light-hearted, although he does repeat the same joke about eggs and bacon quite often. His shining moments are one-on-one, first with Gollum, then Smaug, as he turns invisible to riddle the great red-eyed worm in his smoky chamber. The disappearing act is particularly well done, involving some creative lighting by Leigh Ann Vardy.

The Hobbit is definitely an accessible theatre experience worth taking in (student tickets are just 10 bucks), and a high-quality performance that showcases Burke's resourcefulness, as well as that of his actors and crew.





Mark's Ultra-Accurate Horoscopes

Libra 9/23 - 10/23
A small alien will live inside your nostril, thinking it is exploring a new world. And you will find a dollar.

Scorpio 10/24 - 11/21
A small fish will attack you in the supermarket. It is highly skilled, and should not be underestimated.

Sagittarius 11/22 - 12/21
You will overthrow a villainous tyrant. Your plan will involve applesauce, playing cards, and a rusty muffler.

Capricorn 12/22 - 1/19
You will make up a new language, and find a stranger that speaks it fluently, and can teach you even more of it.

Aquarius 1/20 - 2/18
You will discover the secret of teleportation, but you will be accidentally teleported into the middle of the ocean.

Pisces 2/19 - 3/20
You will be hypnotized by a very talented squirrel and spend the majority of your week gathering nuts.

Aries 3/21 - 4/19
You will make a sandwich this week that is so revolutionary, it changes the world. You're gonna be rich!

Taurus 4/20 - 5/20
You will be able to avoid any bad situations this week by running in circles really fast and clapping.

Gemini 5/21 - 6/21
The meaning of life will be revealed to you by a beggar downtown, through interpretive dance.

Cancer 6/22 - 7/22
Your third eye is going to break the skin tomorrow. It won't look very nice, but you will gain telepathy.

Leo 7/23 - 8/22
You are the long lost heir of an alien king. They have finally found you, and want you as their leader.

Virgo 8/23 - 9/22
You will be kidnapped by hippies and they will teach you all kinds of stuff about love and nature and stuff like that.

Mark Cameron